



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF CHILDREN,
EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Trafficking in children

A criminal act calling for a child protection response

Voksenåsen Hotel, Oslo
20–21 June 2011



Speakers

Ms Henriette Westhrin

Deputy Minister of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion

Henriette Westhrin (born 1973) is a Norwegian politician for the Socialist Left Party. She served as a deputy representative to the Parliament of Norway from Telemark during the terms 1993–1997 and 2001–2005. When the Socialist Left Party entered Stoltenberg's Second Cabinet in 2005, Westhrin was appointed State Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment. After the cabinet reshuffle in October 2007, Westhrin became State Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. After the last election in 2009 Westhrin became State Secretary (Deputy Minister) in the Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion.

Ms Myria Vassiliadou

EU Anti Trafficking Coordinator

Myria Vassiliadou was appointed EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator in March 2011. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Sociology and Social Research and a doctorate in Sociology from the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK.

She has further been a Research Fellow at the Solomon Asch centre for Study of Ethnopolitical conflict, at the University of Pennsylvania. Ms Vassiliadou has served as Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby, the largest network of women's associations across the EU. She was further a founding member of the think tank Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies and served as its Director for seven years and subsequently as the Chair of the Board of Administration. For over a decade, Myria worked as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Nicosia and taught undergraduate and graduate classes in Sociology.

Ms Vassiliadou has worked in the European Commission as a Detached National Expert in the Directorate General for Research. Further, she has served as a member of various Advisory Boards, Expert Groups and acted as a consultant at the national and international level. She has worked extensively in the area of fundamental rights, as these relate to questions of gender, trafficking in human beings, migration, ethnopolitical conflict, and the media.

She has published in several books and journals, conducted workshops and seminars, and has been actively involved in various think tanks, EU wide research projects and national/international non-governmental organisations. She has trained as a counsellor on interpersonal violence against women and also as a

facilitator/mediator on conflict transformation and negotiations, and has lived and worked in various countries both in Europe and beyond.

Ms Line Ruud Vollebæk

Chairperson of the Board, Norwegian Association for Outreach Work with Youth

Line Ruud Vollebæk is the chairperson of the Norwegian Association for Outreach Work With Youth (LOSU). She has been working as a street social worker in Oslo (in Uteseksjonen) since 1999, with a special focus on unaccompanied minor asylum seekers and other young migrants. Her experience from working with these cases is summarized in the guidebook "Oppsøkende sosialt arbeid i et internasjonalt gate-miljø. Arbeid med unge asylsøkere, irregulære migranter og mulige ofre for menneskehandel" (Social Outreach Work in an International Street Environment - Working with young asylum seekers, irregular migrants and possible victims of human trafficking), published by Kompetansesenter rus – Oslo in April 2010.

Vince Dean

Operational Tactical Adviser, UK Human Trafficking Centre

Vince Dean is an Operational Tactical Adviser for the UK Human Trafficking Centre, having joined it in March 2009. The centre is now part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and is, amongst its other roles, the UK central repository for all intelligence involving human trafficking in the UK.

Vince was previously a senior Manager within SOCA, where, as a Branch Commander for its Trent Enforcement Branch, he lead and oversaw over fifteen investigations into national and international organised immigration crime and human trafficking.

Prior to SOCA, Vince spent 30 years in West Midlands Police and the National Crime Squad (NCS), attaining the rank of Detective Chief Inspector. Roles included Senior Investigating Officer of investigations into murder, international drugs trafficking as well as kidnap and extortion and firearms investigations. Latterly, he played a key management role in the creation of a multi-agency investigation team within the NCS, set up to exclusively tackle international organised immigration crime, focusing on human trafficking.

In his current role he engages regularly with law enforcement and other agencies tasked with investigating cases of human trafficking, nationally and internationally. Victims in these cases involve both migrants to the UK and UK nationals.

Christina Voigt

Senior Public Prosecutor, International Public Prosecution Office

My name is Christina Voigt. I have worked as a Public Prosecutor for about 20 years. For the last eight years I have worked mostly with domestic violence; that is women -and child abuses, rapes and other sexual crimes against woman and children and crimes within the family like murders and threats. That includes the problem with different cultures and honour crimes. I have a great deal of interest in this kind of crimes and I have always felt that I, as a prosecutor, can make a difference. One and half year ago I felt that I can't get stuck with this kind of crimes the rest of my life and I got an opportunity to work in the International Public Prosecution Office. I now handle organized crimes over the borders, that is mostly drugs and trafficking. One big difference between my former work and the work in the international prosecution office is that in my former work I could only start a prosecution when I was convinced that I would get a verdict of guilty in court. Now I can also start a case when the judicial interpretation is not clear in an important question, when we need new legal cases to guide the future application of the law. The importance is not if someone is guilty or not, the importance is that the reasoning in support of the judgment is of high quality. This is a small part of my work but, nevertheless, a very exciting part. I really love my work and think the best part is when I am in court. Everything can happen. And that is a challenge I can't resist.

Mr Rudolf Christoffersen

Hordaland Police Department

Rudolf Christoffersen is 42 yrs old. He is working as a prosecutor in Bergen. For the last 4 years he has been working with organised crime and trafficking in human beings. He has been a prosecutor in several trafficking cases in Bergen.

Mr Jarle Bjørke

Police Superintendent, Hordaland Police Department

Ms Karin Norlin Bogren

Head of Maria Youth Outreach Unit, Stockholm, Sweden

Ms Aneta Suda

Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration

Aneta Suda – a representative of the Migration Policy Department in the Ministry of Interior and Administration in Poland; since 2007 an expert in the Unit for Trafficking in Human Beings responsible for initiating and supervising the tasks envisaged in the National Action

Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings with regards to the system of protection and support of victims of THB in Poland.

Under the Working Group established in the Ministry she coordinates the assignment of developing the concept of comprehensive care and protection for victims trafficked in Poland. In this aspect she closely cooperates with the La Strada Foundation that carries out the public task assigned by the Ministry called the National Consulting and Intervention Center for Victims of Trafficking.

Since 2008 she also coordinates the pilot project "Programme for Support and Protection of Minor Victims of Trafficking". The main aim of this project is to create a comprehensive and coherent system of proceedings with minor victims especially with the unaccompanied minors exploited in Poland.

Dr Venla Roth

Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings

Dr. Venla Roth serves as an expert at the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings of Finland. Roth is the drafter of the first Finnish report on human trafficking which sought to evaluate the anti-trafficking measures and their impacts in Finland. The Report was issued to the Parliament one year ago. Roth holds a doctorate in law. Her dissertation dealing with the human rights implications of the anti-trafficking strategies and activities will be published this year by Brill Publishers.

Daja Wenke

Independent Researcher on Child Rights and Child Protection

An independent researcher on child rights and child protection, Daja Wenke has long-standing professional experience working with UNICEF and with regional organisations in Europe. She has specialised on law and policy analysis and applied research to contribute to evidence informed and rights-based policy making, programming and advocacy. A guiding interest in her work is to promote systemic approaches to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, with a thematic specialisation on the prevention and response to the exploitation of children, including in the context of trafficking, and safeguarding children's rights in the context of migration. During 2010 and 2011, she conducted a study on child trafficking in the Nordic countries for the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre and in collaboration with the UNICEF offices in the Nordic countries.

Ms Cecilie Øien

Research Coordinator, Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies

Cecilie Øien has a PhD in social anthropology from the University of Manchester, and is the research coordinator for Fafo's research on international migration. Her research areas are mainly gender, care, transnational families, and different forms of adult and child migration. She has been a coordinator for the research programme *Informal Child Migration in Europe* since 2007 (N-ICME) (2006–2011), and is also a partner in the NORFACE programme *Effects of Transnational Child Raising Arrangements on Life-Chances of Children, Migrant Parents and Caregivers between Africa and Europe* (TCRAF-Eu) (2010–2012). This latter project deals with the upbringing of children in transnational families where parents have migrated to Europe from Africa. Øien has published on child migration in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (Øien 2006), and in *African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal* (2010). In 2010 she published a report about unaccompanied minors in Norway, entitled *Underveis. En studie av enslige mindreårige asylsøkere* (funded by the Ministry of Justice and the Police).

Mr Casper Smidt

Project Coordinator, Danish Red Cross Society

Mr Smidt has 11 years of experience in the Red Cross Society working with asylum seeking children and youth. The last 6 of these in the Anti-trafficking project of the RC Asylum department, targeting unaccompanied minors.

Mr Smidt is actively collaborating with the National Board of Social Services regarding the Danish Governmental action plan to combat Trafficking in Human beings.

He is an international guest lecturer and expert speaker, seminar facilitator, consultant and trainer of project-related professionals and volunteers and an active member of the International Federation Red Cross Anti-Trafficking network and various Danish network.

Mr Smidt has 18 years of total experience as a social educator in various positions in GO's and NGO's. Planning and establishing projects related to social services with a focus on empowerment, behavioral guidance and support primarily to vulnerable children and youth.

Mr Smidt has alternative experience from a long range of fields including textile business, new circus training and performance, organic farming, café management and co-owner of a contemporary art gallery.

Mr Smidt's has an educational background in business, social education, Vedic philosophy, psychology and sports.

Ms Jasmina Byrne

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

Jasmina Byrne is the Child Protection Specialist working in UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre responsible for research related to violence, abuse and exploitation of children, including trafficking. Her current trafficking portfolio includes management of research into systemic responses and government policies and practices including the forthcoming study on Child Trafficking in the Nordic Countries. Prior to joining Innocenti Ms. Byrne was Head of Child Protection in UNICEF Indonesia where she developed some key policy and programme initiatives to strengthen protection of children from exploitation and trafficking and promote systemic responses to child protection. She has extensive experience as an independent consultant providing technical support, research and programme development to governments, donors, the UN and civil society across Southern Africa, South East Asia and South East Europe primarily in relation to violence, abuse and exploitation of children, children in care and child protection in emergencies. Ms. Byrne holds MA in International Relations and European Studies from Central European University (CEU)

Ms Hanne Mainz

Danish Centre Against Human Trafficking

Hanne Mainz, social consultant in The Danish Centre against Human Trafficking. The national centre undertakes the social dimensions of the Danish government's action plan against Human Trafficking and is coordinated by the Department for Gender Equality.

My primary tasks in the centre are to organize, develop and coordinate the social dimensions in the fight against human trafficking of children. Also I coordinate collaboration between social organizations and authorities nationally regarding trafficking in general, with focus on collaboration between social workers and law enforcement.

My educational background is public school teacher, but since 1991 I have worked as social worker and project manager and initiated various projects targeted different social disadvantaged groups such as homeless people, unemployed and vulnerable young women, drug and alcohol addicts, including 9 years of work with female prostitutes. Since 2005 my focus entirely has been on victims of Human Trafficking.

Lars Lööf

Head of Children's Unit, Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat

Lars joined the CBSS Secretariat in June 2002. He is a qualified clinical psychologist and psychotherapist with specialisation in the fields of assessment and treatment of children and adolescents. Lars has worked in the field of clinical psychology mainly with children and adolescents with extreme and abusive experiences from exploitation but also with children suffering the effects of war and torture. Until June 2002 Lars worked for Save the Children Sweden's unit specialising in psychological and psychosocial treatment of children suffering the effects of severe traumas. He was the initiator of Save the Children Sweden's Hotline, fighting child abusive Internet content, a Hotline he administered until June 2002. He has written a number of articles on the subject of children, exploitation and psychological survival, and has been contributing author to several books and reports. He is co-author of the Background paper on child exploitation in Internet settings, developed for the 3rd World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. Lars has co-ordinated several Europe wide projects where sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children in the different European countries have been addressed. Lars has also worked extensively with lectures and training seminars all across Europe and has contributed as panellist and speaker at the 2nd and 3rd World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children in 2001 and in 2008.

Claire Healy

Research Officer, ICMPD

Claire Healy is Research Officer at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Austria and is coordinating projects in the areas of child begging and visa regulations. She recently published a research study on naturalisation in Portugal. Claire ran Summer camps for children of asylum seekers in Hamburg, Germany and set up and ran a youth club for children of asylum seekers in Galway, Ireland. She also worked on after-school programmes for ethnic minority children in Lisbon. During 2007-2009, she worked as Advisor at the Portuguese Government's High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (ACIDI, IP). From 2005 to 2007, Claire worked in Dublin as a Research Consultant for a number of NGOs in the field of migration, refugees and separated children, authoring two reports for the Immigrant Council of Ireland, on language programmes for migrants and on state coordination of migration policy. She also co-authored a report for the on immigrants in Ireland whose status is based on their Irish-born children. She has taught on migration at Summer schools at Lisbon University Institute and

at an international seminar in Poland. Claire has also worked as a translator and speaks German, Portuguese, Spanish, Irish, French, Cape Verdean Creole and basic Croatian. Claire holds a B.A. (International) in History and German from the National University of Ireland and conducted Masters research in Latin American History and Spanish at the University of Hamburg. She has a PhD (2006) in Migration History from the National University of Ireland on nineteenth-century migration from Ireland to Argentina.

Jan Austad

Senior Adviser, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police

Jan Austad is a senior adviser at the Ministry of Justice and the Police in Norway. His main responsibilities are issues on Trafficking in Human Beings. He is responsible for developing and implementing the Norwegian Action Plan against Trafficking.

Mr. Austad worked as a prosecutor in the Norwegian Police for several years, specialising in investigations on sexual crimes and crimes against children. He was posted to the Interpol General Secretariat in Lyon for three years in the Trafficking in Human Beings unit. Before starting work at the Ministry of Justice in 2006, he was responsible for providing training for the police prosecutors in Oslo Police Department. He is currently chair of the Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, and member of the EU expert group on Trafficking.

Ms Kristina Misiniene

Caritas, Lithuania

Kristina Misiniene is the coordinator of Caritas Lithuania project "Aid to the victims of trafficking and prostitution" since 2001. She has Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Social sciences.